

Message Text

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ACTION HEW-04

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FM AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1998

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TPHY OSCI RO

SUBJ: HEALTH EXCHANGE: PROPOSED DHEW TEAM VISIT

REF: STATE 051426, STATE 037330

1. BEGIN UNCLAS SECRETARY WEINBERGER'S LETTER RECEIVED AND TRANSMITTED TO MINISTER BURGHELE FEBRUARY 28. MINHLTH OFFICIALS CONFIRMED TODAY THAT DHEW TEAM WELCOME DURING REQUESTED DATES MARCH 23 - APRIL 4 (REF A).

2. BASED ON ROUTINE DISCUSSIONS WITH EMBASSY SINCE SECRETARY WEINBERGERS' VISIT LAST AUGUST, IT APPEARS MINHLTH HAS ALL ALONG REGARDED DHEW TEAM VISIT AS CERTAIN AND HAS PLANNED ACCORDINGLY. MINISTRY EXPRESSES REGRET THAT VISIT WILL BE SHORTER THAN EXPECTED NECESSITATING REDUCED PROGRAM. POST REQUESTS SUMMARY OF TEAM MEMBERS' PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND SPECIAL MEDICAL INTERESTS IN ADDITION TO THE GENERAL ITINERARY TO BE COMMUNICATED BY MARCH 19.

3. DHEW MAY EXPECT MINHLTH TO RAISE QUESTION OF A DIRECT AGREEMENT ON COOPERATIVE RESEARCH AND HEALTH EXCHANGES BETWEEN THE TWO AGENCIES. MINISTRY WILL DESIGN PROGRAM OF VISITS TO MAXIMIZE DHEW FAMILIARITY WITH EXPANDED EXCHANGE POSSIBILITIES. END UNCLASS.

4. BEGIN LOU DEPUTY MINISTER OF HEALTH MIHAI ALDEA CLOSELY INVOLVED WITH PLANNING OF TEAM VISIT. ALDEA HAS MAJOR FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITIES FOR MINISTRY, INCLUDING SPECIFIC DECISION ON
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LONG-STANDING MATTER OF GOR RECEIPT OF LINEAR ACCELERATOR FOR

RADIATION THERAPY. MINHLTH TECHNICAL SPECIALISTS HAVE ADVISED AGAINST ACCEPTING THE 4MEV US GIFT ACCELERATOR. WHILE SUCH A MACHINE WOULD MEET OBJECTIVES FOR CANCER THERAPY, IT WOULD BE OF NO LONG-RANGE BENEFIT TO ROMANIA SINCE GOR NOW EXPECTS TO FINISH BUILDING A SIMILAR MACHINE FOR OPERATION WITHIN THIS YEAR. OF COURSE A DOMESTIC MACHINE COULD BE MAINTAINED AT MUCH LOWER COST. A FOREIGN ACCELERATOR WOULD BE ADVANTAGEOUS ONLY IF IT WERE (A) POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR SOPHISTICATED RESEARCH, (B) ADEQUATE FOR PRODUCTION OF SHORT-LIVED ISOTOPES, AND (C) POWERFUL ENOUGH FOR STERILIZATION OF BIOLOGICAL PRODUCTS (SERUMS). THEREFORE, MINHLTH REQUESTS USG CONSIDER THE ROMANIAN REQUEST FOR A 35 MEV ACCELERATOR. GOR PREPARED TO MEET ALL PROPORTIONALLY INCREASED COSTS ACCORDING TO FORMULA WORKED OUT FOR 4MEV MACHINE. EMBASSY REQUESTS DHEW PROVIDE RETAIL PURCHASE PRICE FOR 35 MEV MACHINE IN ADVANCE OF TEAM VISIT WITH UNDERSTANDING THIS INFORMATION IN NO WAY TIED TO ANY US DECISION ABOUT RENEWED GIFT OFFER TO GOR. END LOU BARNES

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